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Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel  
Wednesday - 4 August 1971

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10. [REDACTED] Michael Gertner, Legislative Assistant to Senator William B. Saxbe, called to say that Senator John Sherman Cooper has asked Senator Saxbe to cosponsor Cooper's bill (S. 2224) which would require the Agency to provide intelligence information to the Congress as a whole. Mr. Gertner said he would like my views on this bill. I said I could not speak officially, but personally I found the language unclear on several points, such as the role of the Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees facilitating the dissemination of intelligence information to the full membership, the standards which would govern access for congressional employees, and how security would be maintained. Gertner said he would bring these points to the attention of Saxbe who might take them up with Cooper. Gertner said that the Agency looked so good in the light of the "Pentagon papers" that there was an obvious feeling in the Senate that, if they had had access to Agency information they could have played a more constructive role in recent foreign policy development. I said I could appreciate this but pointed out the Director had never refused to testify in executive session on matters within his competence and within the jurisdiction of the Committee involved. As an example, I noted that over half of the Senate had at one time or another been briefed on our involvements in Laos. However I emphasized that we were part of the Executive Branch and the whole question of the handling of classified information between the Executive and Legislative Branches went considerably beyond my competence and probably would have to be resolved in the White House. Gertner spoke of Senator Saxbe's high regard for the Director, and said he would like to get acquainted with the Agency and suggested we have lunch following the recess.

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25X1 5. [ ] Delivered to the office of Chairman Edmund S. Muskie, Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations of Senate Government Operations Committee, a letter from the Director responding to the request of Senator Muskie and Senator Ribicoff (Chairman of the Subcommittee on Executive Reorganization and Government Research of Senate Government Operations) for the Director's appearance before their Subcommittees to discuss involvement of Southeast Asian officials in the drug traffic.

25X1 6. [ ] Met with Senator Stuart Symington in response to his letter to the Director inquiring about press stories concerning an Agency report about an "arms for opium" deal involving the ChiNats and KMT remnants in Laos. Symington seemed satisfied with my explanation that these reports were unconfirmed and inconclusive and deserved no further consideration.

25X1 7. [ ] Met with Senator Milton Young whom I briefed on recent developments regarding new Soviet aircraft testing, the Pakistan situation, and Soviet strategic missile deployment. Senator Young was reluctant to forecast the prospects of passage of several bills recently introduced which would directly affect the Agency's role in Southeast Asia or the Agency's relations with the Congress.

25X1 8. [ ] Delivered to the office of Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel and Staff Director, Senate Armed Services Committee, a copy of our analyses of bills recently introduced by Senator Clifford P. Case concerning the Agency's operations in Southeast Asia.

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